

WSF Ridership Forecasts

Paula J. Hammond, P.E.
Secretary

David L. Dye
Deputy Secretary

Steve Reinmuth
Chief of Staff

David Moseley
Assistant Secretary, Ferries Division

Michael Hodgins
Berk and Associates, Inc.

Washington State Transportation Commission
May 22, 2008



Overview

The ferry system was directed by the State Legislature to reconsider the methodology used to forecast ridership.

- Updated forecasts reflect a redesigned modeling process and take into account new information, such as the results from the 2006 Origin and Destination survey.
- Further work is ongoing to refine recreational travel forecasts, which may alter results for more seasonal routes, such as Port Townsend-Keystone or the San Juan Islands.

Preliminary Ridership Forecasts: System-wide Results

During peak periods:

- Overall rate of growth in ridership is expected to be 1.34% per year – or 37% by 2030.
- Overall rate of growth in vehicles is expected to grow slower than overall ridership – 1% per year – or 29% by 2030.
- Overall rate of growth in passengers is expected to grow faster than overall ridership – 1.5% per year – or 43% by 2030.

Vehicle Demand Forecasts: Moderate Growth Routes

Some routes are anticipated to grow at a moderate rate between 2006 and 2030:

- Seattle/Bremerton – 15%
- Fauntleroy/Vashon – 18%
- Point Defiance/Tahlequah – 20%
- Mukilteo/Clinton – 19%
- Anacortes/Sidney, B.C. – 26%

Vehicle Demand Forecasts: Fast Growing Routes

Some routes are anticipated to grow at a fast rate between 2006 and 2030:

- Edmonds/Kingston – 38%
- Seattle/Bainbridge – 39%
- Anacortes/San Juan Islands – 33%

Vehicle Demand Forecasts: Faster Growth Routes

The fastest growing routes between 2006 and 2030 are:

- Fauntleroy/Southworth – 63%
- Port Townsend/Keystone – 61%
- San Juan Inter-island – 58%
- Southworth/Vashon – 79%

Demand Forecasts:

Net Increases from 1999 – Systemwide Effects

- WSF experienced its highest ridership levels in 1999.
- Subsequent to service reductions and higher fares, most routes declined in ridership from 1999 to 2006.
- Accounting for the 11% ridership drop between 1999 and 2006, **the net increase in ridership between 1999 and 2030 is 26%.**

Next Steps – Forecast Development

Technical work will continue on several tasks:

- Recreational and commercial traffic forecasts.
- Determination of when routes would exceed LOS standards.
- Incorporation of WA State Transportation Commission survey results.
- Testing ridership changes under different operating and pricing strategies.

Questions?

For more information on
WSF Ridership Forecasts,
please contact:

Marta Coursey
Director of Communications, WSDOT Ferries Division
(206) 515-3918 or coursem@wsdot.wa.gov.